



# MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

## AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

**Meeting Date:** February 13, 2020

**Agenda Item:** 2020-2021 Elk Hunting Seasons and Hunting District Boundaries other than Shoulder Seasons

**Action Needed:** Final

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 30 Minutes

**Background:** Season structures and hunting district boundaries are adopted for most game and other managed species every other year between December and final adoptions in February. FWP proposes adopting the existing 2019 structure except for specific changes. This agenda item speaks largely to changes other than shoulder seasons. **Shoulder season changes are addressed in a separate agenda item.**

Among other proposed changes, there are several boundary changes combining hunting districts or portions of districts to simplify regulations and enhance management. Only some of the changes are listed below, all other proposed changes are on the commission master list. **Proposed changes to the December commission adoption are yellow highlighted.**

Region 1 - HD boundary changes in the Flathead and Swan valleys and Bob Marshall. Remove 140-00 antlerless permit. Remove antlerless elk from the archery season in HDs 141, 150 & 151.

Region 2 - HD boundary changes in the Upper Clark Fork and Philipsburg valleys. **Maintain brow-tined bull general license for archery and general seasons.** Remove HDs 210, 211, 212, 214 & 216 from the 002-00 OTC B license bundle. New antlerless permit in HDs 210, 211, 212 & 216. Remove a B license and B permit in HD 283.

Region 3 - Standardize Youth and PTHFV to either-sex in archery and general seasons in most HDs. Numerous changes in B licenses and season dates.

Region 4 - HD boundary changes on the East Front (HDs 404, 421 & 444), Snowy (HDs 411 & 412) and Castle mountains (combine HDs 449 & 452). Make spike valid on the general license in HDs 411 & 412 to match HDs 511 & 530. New B license in HD 417. Add **only HD 455** to the 900-20 either-sex archery-only permit bundle and increase quota to 4,000.

Region 5 - Some changes in permit/B license quotas.

Region 6 - Several boundary changes that reduce nine HDs to five. Several changes in B licenses/permits reflecting HD boundary changes and reducing the number of license and permit types. Allow antlerless elk hunting with a general license in HDs 680 & 690 (proposed to be combined).

**Public Involvement Process & Results:** Public comment was taken from Dec. 5 to Jan. 27 and forwarded to commissioners and FWP staff for their consideration.

**Alternatives and Analysis:** Proposals may be adopted as proposed, with adjustment, with additions, with deletions, or no change from 2019 (status quo). No change would challenge the supporting justifications behind proposals.

**Proposed Motion:** I move that the Fish and Wildlife Commission adopt as final the 2020-2021 elk hunting seasons other than shoulder seasons and hunting districts as presented by FWP. Except for calendar rotation and those season elements specifically identified for change, all other aspects of these seasons are to remain unchanged.